

OPERATION LIFESAVER
LOOK LISTEN & LIVE

True or False: It is okay to walk on railroad property as long as you are not between the rails of the track?
False—Railroad property is private property. It is illegal to be there unless you are at a designated public crossing. Trains are wider than the rails of the track and may have wide loads or stops extending beyond the sides of the cars. When waiting for a train to pass at a public crossing, be sure to remain at least 15 feet from the nearest rail.

True or False: It is okay to cross the tracks anywhere as long as you can see 1/4 mile in each direction?

False—The only place you should cross the tracks is at a designated public crossing with a crossbuck, flashing lights or a gate. If you cross at any other place, you are trespassing.

True or False: A freight train with 100 cars traveling 55 miles per hour requires a distance of one mile or more to stop?

True—After applying the emergency brakes, a train traveling at 55 miles per hour travels one mile or more before it comes to a stop. Remember, locomotives and freight cars are 7,000 times heavier than the family car, and it takes a great deal more distance for them to stop.

True or False: I will have plenty of time to get out of the way of an approaching train because I will hear it coming?
False—Today's trains are quieter than ever. When operating on welded rail, the familiar clinkety-clack sound is no longer made. Also, trains do not sound the whistle continuously. By the time a locomotive engineer sees you and sounds the whistle, you may not have enough time to react. Stay away from the tracks.

True or False: At a crossing, the flashing red lights and gates of the active warning devices are only for the vehicles. It is okay for a pedestrian to ignore them and cross in front of the train?

False—The signals provided by the active warning devices at highway-rail crossings apply to both motorists and pedestrians. You can be cited for failing to comply with these signals. Never walk around, or behind lowered gates at a crossing. Wait for the lights to stop flashing before proceeding across the tracks.

True or False: Railroad property is public property. I have the right to use it for recreation, or as a shortcut, whenever I feel like it?
False—Railroad property is private property. If you are on railroad tracks, equipment or cars without permission, you are trespassing and as subject to criminal prosecution.

True or False: A locomotive is not always in front of a train?
True—Locomotives can move in either direction at anytime. Trains are sometimes pushed by locomotives instead of being pulled. This is especially true in commuter and light rail passenger service.

True or False: It is okay for you to cross just as soon as the last car of a train passes the crossing?
False—Do not cross the tracks immediately after a train has cleared the crossing. There might be a second train coming in either direction or another track that you cannot see because the first train blocks your vision. Wait until the train has traveled away from you so you can clearly see in both directions. If there are flashing red lights at the crossing, never move until the lights stop flashing.

True or False: It is okay to travel our railroads or exploring Ohio's historic railroad sites.

Sincerely,

Ted Strickland

Governor

Ohio's Scenic Railroads and Rail Museums

Visit Ohio's family of rail attractions. See rail artifacts from a bygone era. Experience the adventure of riding the rails.

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ORDC OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The ORDC Railroad Grade Crossing Safety Programs provides funding for highway-railroad grade crossing safety improvements or corrective activity designed to alleviate a highway-railroad safety problem. The ORDC Grade Crossing Safety Programs are funded by \$15 million per year from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Hazard Elimination Funds and Surface Transportation Program.

ORDC PROGRAMS

Statewide Priority Warning Device Improvements

- Identified by Federal Railroad Administration Ranking
- Takes into consideration: number of trains, train speed, number of tracks, ADT, existing warning devices, angle of crossing and crash history

Rail Corridor Program

- Corridors identified by crash and train data, sight distance, amount of railroad contribution per corridor

Program to eliminate flashing light signals on the state lights

Program to eliminate crossbucks on the state

Crossbacks on the State highway system

equipment

Grade Crossing Safety Education

- Flexible funds to local governments for crossing closures
- Improvements at crossings remaining open
- Incentive can be in the form of a \$15,000 cash grant to be used toward any highway safety improvement

Surface Reconstruction and Crossing Profile Program

County Task Force Program

Grade Separation Program

Spur Program

ORDC works closely with the Ohio Department of Development and other public and private development related organizations to induce companies to locate or expand in Ohio. The program provides loan and grant funding assistance to construct or rehabilitate industrial lead tracks and rail spurs and related items.

Acquisition Program

ORDC provides grants and loans to purchase rail lines to prevent cessation of service and preserve the line. Short line railroads purchase the lines because they can operate the lines at a higher profit margin than the Class 1 railroads. ORDC also provides funding to acquire a line to enhance the line's

1. *Leucosia* (Leucosia) *leucosia* (L.) (Fig. 1)

Railroad Rehabilitation
Branchline Preservation
This program provides loan and grant funding for projects on light density rail lines, usually lines which were divested by Class 1 carriers. Since the lines usually suffer from deferred maintenance, ORDC may employ rehabilitation assistance to upgrade the infra-

structure.

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Branchline Enhancement
A rail line does not have to be threatened with imminent abandonment to be eligible for ORDC assistance. ORDC provides loan and grant funding assistance for track rehabilitation, generally loans, to help railroads improve

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ORDC Contact Information

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